

3rd February 1925]

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I understand that it is the local agents who are mainly responsible for allowing these unsuitable persons to go. I should like to point out that the last thing the employers want is to waste money on taking unsuitable men to Assam."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know approximately what is meant by the words 'much more'? Assuming that he does a full day's labour, what will he get? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I think I mentioned these figures on the occasion of the debate recently on this matter. I gave Rs. 15 as the average for men and Rs. 9 for women but I have now reason to think that the latter figure is too low."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Only one more question, Sir. Will the hon. the Home Member give us an idea as to what the concession rate is? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If I may be permitted to speak from memory, I think about Rs. 3 per maund is the concession rate at which rice is generally supplied to the Assam labourers."

European Education.

Levy of higher fees on Indian boys in European schools.

* 4 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has completed his investigations into the grounds on which higher fees are being levied on Indian boys in European schools;

(b) if so, the result of the investigations and the action, if any, proposed to be taken by the Government; and

(c) if not, when the investigations are expected to be completed?

A.—The investigations have been completed. A copy^a of G.O. No. 1893, Law (Education), dated 4th December 1924, which contains the orders issued by the Government in the matter is placed on the table.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to this question, I am referred to Appendix II at page 77. May I ask the hon. the Home Member to say with reference to the first paragraph whether he can give us the number or the nature of cases in which the discrimination cannot be justified on the ground of extra work? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I cannot give the figures. Differential rates have been charged in cases that were said to involve extra teaching work. But I cannot say exactly how many "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask if the Government have issued orders to stop any such discrimination where it could not be justified on any grounds of extra work? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" That, I think, is clearly the purpose of the order. We have recognized that principle except in cases where there are endowments or benefaction set apart for special classes of children. Apart from that and apart from the cases where it is proved that extra work is involved, it is clear we do not allow discrimination."

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 77 infra.

[3rd February 1925]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I want some light being thrown on it, Sir. No two pupils could be said to possess the same amount of average intelligence. Then, how is this extra work to be justified in the case of pupils who are so backward in English as to require special tuition?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I think, Sir, for all practical purposes the position is perfectly clear. The tuition is given in English and generally children with a sufficient knowledge of English are admitted. If it is found that the knowledge of English of a particular pupil is not up to the necessary standard then it would be legitimate to charge some extra amount for the tuition that has to be given. Otherwise we do not recognize discrimination."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Europeans, for instance, may also be backward in English. May I take it that this extra cost is collected from them as well as from Indian boys?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" It is not the Government that actually collect the charges. All we can say is we shall not allow such fees to be charged except under certain specified circumstances."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I do not ask the Government to do such a thing. I am only asking if such a fee is being collected from European pupils also whose English knowledge happens to be defective."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I can only say that it is hardly possible to go into details like that. We have made it perfectly clear that there should be no discrimination on racial grounds. I may suggest to the hon. Member to accept that without attempting to go further into all these details."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, the difficulty is that I am very much accustomed to finding Government Orders being flouted by those concerned. I therefore would ask the hon. the Home Member to kindly lay the order on the table of this House making it clear that the Government will not countenance any such discrimination on racial grounds."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The responsibility, I think, rather rests with the Inspector than with the Director of Public Instruction."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if the extra cost for special tuition is restricted only to English or applies to any other subjects also."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Only to English."

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" What kind of action do Government propose to take against schools that do not follow this order?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" The difficulty is this. Who is to judge of the additional expenditure? I am quite sure that there will be a number of cases where this difficulty will arise. I want to know who is to judge and will it not be better that before any extra cost is"

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—" I want to know if the hon. Member is making a speech or asking a supplementary question."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I am putting a series of supplemental questions in a speech, Sir."

3rd February 1925]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—“ I am afraid such a thing is not contemplated by the rules.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know whether there is any objection to just lay down a rule by which permission is to be given by the Inspector of Schools or so ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am quite prepared to issue some such instruction. But I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to another side of the matter. If we place too great a restriction on the managers of schools it may be that we shall drive them into refusing Indian pupils altogether. After all, a manager must have some discretion as to choosing his pupils when he has only a limited number of vacancies. It is not desirable therefore to press this particular point too far.”

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—“ Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of European schools which have not got any endowments set apart for European education? In such institutions the Indian boys have to pay double fees. I just want to have a list so that we might know whether we have to pay single or double fees in such schools.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Surely, Sir, it would serve my hon. Friend's purpose equally well if he would select his school and then ascertain what its fees are.”

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—“ May I know, as a matter of fact, Sir, whether there is any single institution which goes under the name of European Association and which does not receive anything either from some Christian Mission or some other association? That has been used by the Inspectors of Schools to shut our mouths? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I admit that it may be possible that this Government Order may be inoperative because all the schools have endowments. If I find the circumstances as stated by the hon. Member, we will reconsider the Government Order.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Is it open to any individual school to do what it likes regarding individual students? May I know whether the Government will view that with equanimity or whether they have any policy regarding the admission of Indian boys into European schools? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am not prepared to state a policy but Government will certainly not adopt the course of forcing a student into a school when his knowledge is not sufficient to understand the language in which the subjects are taught.”

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—“ May I ask whether when the circumstances just stated do not exist the Government have any policy to announce in regard to the action to be taken against schools which do discriminate merely on account of race? ”

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—“ May I know whether this extra fee for tuition is taken in the lowest class or in all classes? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The question does not arise.”

[3rd February 1925]

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"I have got some boys who have got 80 per cent or more than what the European boys in English have got. Are they to be considered backward? I am paying double fees even when they have got higher proficiency in English."

Voting in the Legislative Council.

Alleged influence of the Labour Commissioner on the nominated members of the Legislative Council.

* 5 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether at any time the Labour Commissioner has sought to influence the nominated members of the Council;

(b) whether Mr. Paddison at any time spoke to the hon. Lieut. Madurai about his having voted against the Government in a particular division; and

(c) whether there is any arrangement under which Mr. Paddison is to act as a whip for the Government in relation to the nominated members of the Council?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"On a point of order, Sir, I should like to ask you how this question has been admitted."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I submit a point of order? Unless I consent to yield my hon. Friend has no right, Sir, to take my place."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Never mind, he has raised a point of order. Let him have his say."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I do not want to yield my place to my hon. Friend. I follow the precedents of the House of Commons and the Assembly."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I have also followed the precedents both in the House of Commons and in the Assembly and any member who raises a point of order should take the precedence. This particular question is not admissible under the Standing Orders."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I know whether a question having been once admitted it is open to any member to raise a point of order regarding its admissibility?"

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"This is the only occasion on which I can raise a point of order. It is only when it is on the agenda that I can raise a point of order. It has not yet been answered. It has been printed and placed into our hands. When the question is called either by the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary that is the stage at which I can object. Though the printed copy says what the answer is it is still open to us to say that this particular portion can be shut out from the proceedings of the Council."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid it is too late to raise that point of order. There it is and the answer is given."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am much obliged. I am sure the hon. the Home Member realizes, especially as he is the Leader of the House . . ."